



The Real Value of Appropriations

January 2002

President Bush has now signed all thirteen regular appropriations bills—plus two supplemental appropriations bills—into law for fiscal year 2002. Because the numbers in appropriations bills are so big, it is often difficult to grasp the true amounts of money being allocated. Below are some useful—and fun—examples of ways to comprehend the real value of appropriations.

FY2002 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations (PL 107-116): \$123.4 billion

If you wanted to walk a foot for every dollar in the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, you'd have to walk 23.4 million miles.

FY2002 Transportation Appropriations (PL 107-87): \$15.3 billion

If you wanted to work one hour for every dollar in the Transportation Appropriations bill, you'd have to work for 1.75 million years.

FY2002 Interior Appropriations (PL 107-63): \$19.1 billion

If you wanted to eat one inch of ribbon candy for every dollar in the Interior Appropriations bill, you'd have to eat 301,108 miles of candy.

FY2002 Agriculture Appropriations (PL 107-76): \$16.1 billion

If you wanted to travel one mile for every dollar in the Agriculture Appropriations bills, you could travel from Earth to the Sun and back almost 87 times.

FY2002 VA-HUD Appropriations (PL 107-73): \$85.4 billion

If you wanted to sing a musical note for as many seconds as there are dollars in the VA-HUD Appropriations bill, you'd have to hold that note for 2,734 years.

FY2002 Treasury-Postal Appropriations (PL 107-67): \$17.1 billion

If you got hold of a time-machine and set it to take you into the future as many minutes as there are dollars in the Treasury-Postal Appropriations bill, you'd find yourself in the year 34,484.

FY2002 District of Columbia Appropriations (PL 107-96): \$408.0 million

If you had \$408 million, you could buy yourself a fleet of 18,545 mid-size cars (at \$22,000 each).

FY2002 Energy & Water Appropriations (PL 107-66): \$25.1 billion

If you had \$25.1 billion, you could buy 5.5 million pounds of gold (at January 14, 2002 prices)

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